MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Brecon Borough Council

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1962

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Guildhall,Brecon.
T.N.Brecon 26.

Public Health Inspector.....S.Jinks, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board,Meat and Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute,Testamur of the Cardiff Technical College.

Brecon Borough Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1962

Mr.Mayor and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Borough of Brecon during the year 1962.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/63(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.....2868 acres.

The Borough of Brecon,which has an area of 2868 acres,is a county town of a shire of it's own name,containing the County Offices of various departments and a large military camp and Barracks.The town consists of the parishes of St.Johns and St.Mary's on the north side of the river Usk,these parishes being divided by the Honddu stream,and of the parish known as St.Davids' Within and also, more familiarly,as Llanfaes,which lies south of the river Usk and eastward of the confluence of the Tarrell stream with that river

The two parts of the town are connected by an ancient stone bridge over the Usk while to the south is the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Population.

Census 1931	5332.
Census 1951	6466.
Census 1961	5797.
Estimated Midsummer 1962	5830.

The Registrar General's estimates for the last ten years are shown below.

1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	1962.
5933.	6150.	6180.	6190.	6370.	6080.	6460.	5680.	5780.	5830.

The population decreased between the last two census years.An increase in the estimated population is noticed over that of the previous year.

Inhabited houses.The number of inhabited houses was 1917 giving an average per house of 3.0 persons.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate	54.	43.	97.	
Illegitimate	0.	2.	2.	
	54.	45.	99.	16.9

The corrected rate was 15.2
The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.0
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but higher than the district deathrate,which is a satisfactory feature.
The Breconshire County rate was 15.2

Illegitimacy.Two illegitimate births were registered during the year.

Deaths.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.
	38.	56.	94.	16.1

The corrected rate was 13.3
The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.9
The district rate was therefore slightly higher than the national average but lower than the district birthrate.
The Breconshire County rate was 14.39

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Still Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 live & still births.
	0.	1.	1.	10.0

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.1
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.
The Breconshire County rate was 22.43

Total Live & Still Births.....100.

Infant Deaths. There were four deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age. All of these died when under 1 week old.

Total Mortality rate.....40.4
The rate for England and Wales was 21.4 which was slightly lower than the Borough rate.
The Breconshire County rate was 28.98

Maternal Deaths. There were no deaths which could be attributed to childbirth, which was an extremely satisfactory feature.
Maternal Mortality rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....One.
Other forms tuberculosis.....Nil.
Cancer.....24.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....38. Females.....56.

	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2.
Malignant neoplasm, lung	5	0.
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2.
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	3.
Other malignant neoplasms	2	8.
Vascular lesions, nervous system	4	10.
Coronary disease, angina	5	3.
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1.
Other heart disease	5	9.
Other circulatory disease	1	3.
Influenza	2	3.
Pneumonia	0	1.
Gastritis	1	0.
Bronchitis	2	1.
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0.
Congenital malformations	1	0.
Other diseases	3	7.
Accidents, not motor vehicular	2	3.
Suicide	1	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

The following table shows the number of deaths from tuberculosis and cancer in recent years.

	Cancer	Tuberculosis	Cancer Lung Males	Cancer Lung Females	
1953	14	0.	1	0.	
1954	12	0.	1	0.	
1955	15	2.	2	0.	10
1956	19	2.	4	0.	
1957	15	0.	2	0.	

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	Cancer	Tuberculosis	Cancer Lung Males	Cancer Lung Females	
1958	11	1.	1	0.	
1959	8	1.	2	0.	
1960	6	1.	3	0.	15
1961	14	1.	3	1.	
1962	24	1.	5	0.	

It will be seen that these have increased by 50% in the last five years as compared with previous five years. I also give deaths from cancer of the lung over last 10 years.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in the public health officers of the Council during the year. Mr. Jinks remained as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Cardiff Laboratory and any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was also performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. Milk sampling was done by the Cardiff Laboratory, whilst the Brecon War Memorial Hospital made use of the Beck Laboratory, Swansea. The Cardiff laboratory was used for the examination of milk for the presence of tuberculosis.

Nursing and Other Facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administer the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the Borough, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. There is also the St. David's Hospital which deals with cases of chronic illness.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remains the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the Borough suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox, arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supply. Until the 31st. March 1959, the Borough Council were responsible for the supply of water in their district. After this date the Council became a constituent member of the new South East Breconshire Water Board which is now responsible for the supply of water in the Borough.

Piped Supply. All the houses in the Borough, with the exception of 16 of those on the extreme borders have a tapped supply to the house. The 16 others have their own private supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the Borough is treated by downward filtration and the effluent finally passes into the River Usk. The effluent is unsatisfactory and the sewage works is unsuitable for the satisfactory treatment of the sewage.

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The Council have appointed Consulting Engineers who have submitted to them and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government a scheme for relaying of certain lengths of sewers and the construction of a new sewage disposal works. The Ministry have required before approving the scheme, an investigation into the amount of surface water infiltration into the sewers. The Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme for this investigation which has been approved by the Council and the Ministry and works on the scheme are being carried out.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector in connection with drainage work.....109.

Closet Accommodation. The number of houses within the Borough unconnected with the sewerage system was 31.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the weekly collection and disposal of house refuse, this work being done by the Council under the supervision of your Surveyor. The refuse is disposed of by tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector, Mr. S. Jinks. At this juncture I must state that I am indebted to the Public Health Inspector for the figures and details of his work contained in this report. This information has proved most useful in the preparation of this report.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....61.
Number of complaints investigated.....61.
Number of premises inspected.....66.
Number of premises revisited.....6.
Number of preliminary notices served.....5.
for (a) Structural defects.....5.
(b) Sanitary defects.....0.
Number of Statutory Notices served.....1.

Result of Notices served.

Number completed.....5.
Number in hand of builder.....0.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of licensed premises.....24.
Number of visits to such premises....34.

Particular attention has been given to the provision of sufficient and suitable sanitary accommodation and proper washing facilities.

Details. Provision of sanitary conveniences and washing facilities.

Number of premises with separate sanitary accommodation.....24.
Number of premises without separate sanitary accommodation.....0.
Number of premises with proper washing facilities.....24.
Number of premises without proper washing facilities.....0.

Shops.

Number of shops in the district.....151.
Number of inspections by Public Health Inspector.....47.

Factories.

Number of factories on the register.....39.
Number of inspections made.....29.
Number of defects found.....2.
Number of notices served.....2.
Number of defects remedied.....2.

Caravan Licences.

Under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, 4 licences have been issued to allow land to be used as a caravan site.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

All premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin are treated with D.D.T. preparations which have been found to be very satisfactory.

Number of premises inspected.....3.
Number of premises disinfested.....3.

Rodent Control. One part-time Rodent Operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Details of Inspections and Treatments

	Premises			
	Business	Dwelling	Municipal	Agricultural
Number of inspections	207	1704	25	16.
Number infested	12	18	9	5.
a)Major infestations	0	0	0	0.
b)Minor infestations	12	18	9	5.
Number of treatments	10	17	14	14.

Sewer Treatment. During the year two maintenance treatments were carried out. Details are given below.

	1st.Treatment	2nd.Treatment
Number of manholes	182	182.
Number of manholes baited	22	26.
Number of prebait takes	8	14.

Pet Animals Act,1951.

Number of licensed pet shops.....1.

Section 4. Housing.

1.Housing Need. Applicants for Council Houses.There is still a definite demand for housing accommodation in the Borough.It must be remembered that apart from the normal residents the demand is increased due to the fact that the town is a military and administrative centre for Government and other departments.

Bearing in mind the standard laid down by the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health on the question of "Housing Need" in their report "Selection of Tenants" and with particular reference to their standard for overcrowding based on bedroom deficiency the Council's waiting list showed the following details.

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Type of Applicant	Total	Residing in Borough	From outside Borough
Without separate accommodation and bedroom deficiency	6	6	0
Without separate accommodation	4	3	1
T.B.Applicants	0	0	0
Unfit house, statutory overcrowding and bedroom deficiency	2	1	1
Unfit house and bedroom deficiency	6	6	0
Other houses, bedroom deficiency	7	6	1
Other applicants	50	31	19
Applicants for Aged Persons bungalows	36	28	8
Unfit house	11	9	2
Totals	122	90	32

Housing Consolidated Regulations, Article 31.

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....66.
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied inconsequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.....9.
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to
   (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or
   (b) the making of demolition or closing orders.....4.
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works..0.
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.....0.
6. The number of demolition or closing orders.....0.
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking under sub-section 3 of section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 was accepted..4.
8. The number of houses demolished.....0.

Allocation of Houses.

During the year the following letting of houses took place:-

For General Needs and Relettings	Maendu Terrace	1
	Ffynnon Dewi	1
	Adelaide Gardens	1
	Brynawelon	1
	Ffynnon Dewi Bungalows	16
	Coryton Close (Reema)	1

Post War Housing.

1. By Borough Council	Ffynnon Dewi	64 houses
a) Houses completed	No. of 4 bedrooms	6
	No. of 3 bedrooms	52
	No. of 2 bedrooms	6
	Adelaide Gardens	51 houses
	No. of 4 bedrooms	4
	No. of 3 bedrooms	38
	No. of bungalows	9
	Bryn de Winton	40 houses
	No. of 3 bedrooms	40
	Coryton Close	24 houses
	No. of 3 bedrooms	24

Coryton Close (Reema)	48 houses
No. of 3 bedrooms	48
Brynawelon	22 houses
No. of 3 bedrooms	22
Ffynnon Dewi	
No. of 1 bedroom bungalows	16

b) Future Housing.

(a) The Council are negotiating for the purchase of a field to extend the Coryton Close development. The Usk River Board have refused consent to the additional discharge to the existing sewage works. The Council propose appealing against this decision to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

2. By Private Enterprise.

Total number of houses erected in the year.....18.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Number of applications approved for Discretionary Grants.....6.
Number of applications approved for Standard Grants.....6.

Housing Inspections by Public Health Inspector.

Number of house to house inspections.....114.
Number of visits to Council Houses.....142.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Number of registered dairies in the Borough.....6.
Number of distributors licensed by Borough Council.....8.
Number of producer/distributors in Borough.....0.
Number of producer/distributors from Rural District.....0.
Total number distributing in Borough.....8.

Record of Inspections.

Number of visits to dairies.....25.

Meat.

There is a slaughterhouse in the Borough which is sufficient to meet the demands of the district and neighbourhood. The slaughterhouse has been leased to the Fatstock Marketing Corporation, but all its facilities are available to local butchers.

Meat Inspections.

Number of inspections.....466.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole and Part

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1202	9	81	14021	497	-
Number inspected	1202	9	81	14021	497	-

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	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	4	1	2	11	3	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	178	7	4	575	13	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or cysticerci	15.1	88.8	7.7	5.3	3.2	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	20	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	4.02	-

It is interesting to note that this is the third year that no tuberculosis has been found in Cattle. The incidence has been decreasing rapidly in the post war years and it is pleasing to report this evidence of the success of the Ministry's campaign in the eradication of Bovine T.B.

Cysticerci						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Weight Condemned of Home Killed Meat in lbs.weight for T.B.						
Whole carcases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Part carcases	-	-	-	-	227	-
Organs	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	227	-
For Other Diseases						
Whole carcases	393	570	104	352	414	-
Part carcases	274	110	12	173	58	-
Organs	1944	87	23	1666	95	-
	2611	767	139	2191	567	-

Slaughterhouse Act,1958.

Report on Slaughterhouse Facilities.The Council submitted their report dated 17th.March to the Minister of Agriculture,Fisheries and Food. The report indicated that the public slaughterhouse at Canal Bank, Brecon and occupied by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation Ltd. complied already with all the requirements for the time being in force in respect of new slaughterhouses.It was recommended that the date on which the Minister apply the new standard should be the 1st.September 1960. The appointed day was the 1st.September 1960.

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Other Foods.

Type of Food Premises	Number	Inspections	Notices	No.registered under Sec.14 F. & D.Act 1938
Cafe/Restaurant	20	22	-	-
Grocers	25	31	-	-
Butchers	8	17	-	8
Wet Fish	2	5	-	-
Fried Fish	3	12	-	-
Greengrocers	5	11	-	-
Sweets	7	7	-	-
Bakehouses	5	15	-	-
Icecream producer/ Retailers	-	-	-	-
Icecream Retailers	44	25	-	44
School Canteens	8	7	-	-

Other Foods Condemned.

Number of tins condemned.....69.
Number of lbs. of other foods condemned.....427.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

Frequent inspections have been made of food premises and improvement affected in a number of premises.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

1.The Borough Council require users of the slaughterhouse to inform them where meat is disposed.Meat is stained with a green vegetable dye and disposed of to a processing firm or by burying in tip.
2.Condemned tins etc. are disposed of by burying in the Council tip.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year;

Salmonella Food Poisoning.....9 cases
Non Paralytic Poliomyelitis.....1 case
Measles.....6 cases

Of the nine notified cases of food poisoning,seven occurred in Christ College.During the investigation it became evident that two of the food preparation staff were affected and this,possibly,was the cause of the infection among the boys.These two women were put off work until proved free from infection.The other two notified cases were isolated ones,apparently no connection with the Christ College cases. The organism involved was Salmonelle Typhi murium and the actual cause of the infection was never ascertained.

The case of poliomyelitis was a woman who had been admitted to Hospital as a suspected cerebral tumour but the diagnosis of poliomyelitis was made. Complete recovery was made.

No deaths occurred as a result of notifiable infectious disease.

Number of cases investigated by Public Health Inspector.....0.
Number of disinfections including those required for tuberculosis.. .

Venereal Disease.The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital,Swansea for the treatment of these cases.The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....44.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....5.
Number of cases removed as disease arrested.....3.
Number of cases removed as left district.....4.
Number of deaths during the year.....1.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....41.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:-

1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	1962.
4.	2.	6.	5.	8.	6.	11.	8	10.	5.

Of these 5 cases, 4 were transfers from other districts.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation being maintained. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE 1962 FOR THE BOROUGH OF BRECON IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

Part 1 of the Act

1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	7	7	2	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	22	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	39	29	2	-

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2.- Cases in which DEFECTS were found.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more Cases)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	2	-

There was no outwork done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health